

Letter From NEW YORKERS

New York Recognizes Fred T. Korematsu Day

Susan Hamaker

In 1942 California native Fred Korematsu refused to enter the concentration camps established for the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans...



THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Karen Korematsu (center) and city council member Daniel Dromm (right) hold a press conference at the steps of City Hall.

New York City Establishes January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day

"Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans is Unconstitutional" Protecting Freedom and Constitutional Rights

In honor of a historically significant figure, last year in December "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution" was established to be on Fred Korematsu's birthday (January 30)...

"imprisonment should not be given to those suffering from racial, ethnic or religious discrimination," participants strictly criticized the Trump Administration's executive orders of the Muslim ban and travel ban...

On the same day at 7:00 p.m., a memorial ceremony titled, "Fred Korematsu: Stand Up for What is Right" was held along with a debate at the NYU Cantor Film Center.

Daniel Dromm said, "New York and the whole country should learn from the illegal imprisonment that Japanese Americans experienced at the internment camps through Fred Korematsu Day. We are far from achieving his goals. We will have to prevent similar problems that may occur in the future by educating children about Fred

The participants included city council member and advocate Daniel Dromm, daughter of Fred Korematsu and representative of the Korematsu Institute Karen Korematsu, as well as representatives from the New York Day of Remembrance Committee and the Asian American and Muslim American communities...

Under Korematsu's words that

Kawasaki Rail Car Receives Largest Order From M.T.A.

MODERN SUBWAY CAR Coming to N.Y.

On January 24, Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., through its United States subsidiary Kawasaki Railcar Inc. Hiroji Iwasaki, C.E.O. (Yonkers, New York; President Yoshinori Kanehana), received an order forecast from New York City Transit for 535 "R211" rail cars.



The order amounts to about \$1.4 billion. The agreement has an option of up to an additional 1,077 cars. If all are exercised, it would be the largest rail car order Kawasaki has ever received, with a production of 1,612 cars amounting to \$3.7 billion in total...



The new subway car R211

The R211 will replace the R62 cars that currently run in New York City Transit and the Staten Island Railroad.

Body frames will be manufactured at its Lincoln, Nebraska factory, while equipment installation, final construction and diagnostic tests will be performed at both Lincoln and Yonkers factories. Delivery is expected in 2020 through 2023. Hiroji Iwasaki, C.E.O. of Kawasaki Railcar Inc., mentioned, "Since we closed the first contract with New York City Transit in 1982, we have continuously received orders and delivered more than 2,800 cars. The bid was highly competitive, but we were successful in receiving a large project order because advanced technology and reliability are valued for our trouble-free cars delivered. Now there are more subway users in New York as Governor Cuomo mentioned in an urgent statement. It is therefore quite imperative to deliver the order in a short period of time. We were chosen for that task as a proven rail car manufacturer. Expecting continual public transportation expansion in the future under a strong United States economy, we will positively overcome challenges."

(Written by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Kunio Shimura)



Korematsu."

Karen Korematsu stated, "I would like the children to understand my father's painful experiences and relate

them with current problems. Currently, the Trump Administration is treating the Muslim community the same way as how the Japanese Americans were treated. My father emphasized that we have to change the world. Now is the time we "stand up for what is right." (Yuka Yamada/Photo by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Ai Omae)



THE JAPAN VOICE is the English Edition of SHUKAN NY SEIKATSU NEW YORK SEIKATSU PRESS, INC., 71 W 47 St, Suite 307, New York, NY 10036 USA Editor in Chief: Ryoichi Miura, Associate Editor: Ashley Matarama, Editor: Kaoru Komi Advertise Here! Contact 212-213-6069 info@nyseikatsu.com

Advertisement

Focusing on historical issues from the overseas point of view chapter 3

Himawari Japan's role in the Comfort Women issue

One day, a Japanese girl came home from school very upset and said to her mother, "Mom, I'm ashamed of being Japanese! " Why did she have to make such a terrible remark to her mother? Earlier that day, a Korean classmate had criticized Japan to her face in front of her class, saying that "Japanese soldiers had kidnapped more than two hundred thousand Korean women, mostly young girls only twelve or thirteen years old, for sexual slavery and eventual massacre."

This is one of the examples of school bullying and bias that young Japanese nationals face today in New Jersey and New York. The problems of anti-Japanese bias continues to grow. Much of this stems from the growing presence of comfort women monuments in neighborhood parks and from public school history miseducation about Japan. One of the largest history book publishers, McGraw-Hill, includes many anti-Japanese descriptions in its modern world history books. These texts state that the Japanese Army abducted girls between 14 and 20 years of age and forced them to serve in Army brothels called "Comfort Stations" or "Entertainment Centers." When the Army provided soldiers with these women, it referred to them as "the gift from the Emperor." The books also claim that

most of the girls were Koreans or Chinese. Each had to service 20 to 30 men a day. If anyone tried to escape or contracted a sexually transmitted disease, she would be executed. As the end of war approached, to hide their crimes, the soldiers massacred many comfort women. However, we believe these stories are untrue and were created as anti-Japanese propaganda. When these stories are relayed by American history teachers, sometimes Chinese and Korean students become angry. Japanese mothers have reported that their children have been called rapists and terrorists, and even spat upon. Upon hearing of the mistakes that McGraw-Hill had made in its books, a group of nineteen Japanese scholars, in March 2015, sent a statement to the publisher requesting correction of these factual errors. They presented the publisher with correct information supported by numerous government records, including American post-war military investigative reports. So far, there has been no response.

Another example of anti-Japanese education occurred in New York and New Jersey where school districts presented two extremely anti-Japanese movies, "The Cove" and "Unbroken", to their high school students on several occa-

sions. When the teachers asked the audience its opinion about what they saw, all the Japanese students lowered their heads and said nothing.

One World War II veteran visited schools in New Jersey and New York in 2015 and 2016 to speak about his first-hand experiences as a war prisoner of Japan. He told elementary school children that he has seen a Japanese soldier stab a baby with a bayonet and began eating it in front of everybody. Imagine Japanese youngsters having to listen to this with their American classmates! This is psychological abuse for Japanese children. Why do teachers have to emphasize the alleged horrors of a war that ended more than 70 years ago? What is the point of propagandizing in American schools that Japan is the eternal enemy of decency in the world?

Showing cruel movies only results in creating conflicts among innocent children. When I found out about these incidents, I was so humiliated and outraged that I had to do something. Coincidentally, I had the opportunity to meet Professor Shiro Takahashi of Meisei University who was visiting America to do research about "bullying issues" stemming from historical disputes in the United States. This meeting prompted me to begin organizing in June 2016 our

"Himawari Japan" group. Our members are Japanese women who live in New York and New Jersey.

Our goal is helping troubled Japanese people who live in America. We want to inform both Japanese and Americans about the truth of world history, Japan's role in the modern world, and problems miseducation inflicts on our children in America. We want Japanese children to live with pride.

Himawari Japan's activities include distributing historical documents in English to local schools when needed. We help Japanese children and parents with problems at public schools. We can also assist Japanese parents reporting any anti-Japanese harassment to the Japanese Consulate in New York and in some cases to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

At present, we are working with Japanese historians and researchers from various institutions by hosting lectures on relevant historical issues. We intend to do our best to explain true Japanese history, particularly about the comfort women issue, with the hope of resolving the problem someday.

Yoko Nagato President of Himawari JAPAN

Himawari JAPAN

www.himawarijapan.org